

Section 9 — Mystical Experiences, ACE Score, Consciousness, and Meaning-Making Frameworks

This section examines near-death experiences (NDEs), mystical and visionary experiences, ACE score context, trauma adaptation, symbolic cognition, and meaning-making systems. It is intentionally separated from neuropsychological testing and intelligence models.

ACE Score Context

- ACE Score: 8
- High developmental adversity exposure
- Associated in research with nervous-system dysregulation, hypervigilance, autoimmune vulnerability, and dissociation
- Does NOT measure intelligence or capability
- Observed adaptive responses include creativity, systems building, symbolic processing, ecological immersion, and service

Mystical / NDE / OBE Experiences

- Memoir material contains descriptions of out-of-body states, luminous imagery, symbolic beings, energetic fields, tunnels, cities, and interconnectedness experiences
- Experiences repeatedly described as meaningful, transformative, and morally organizing
- Narrative structure shows coherence rather than random fragmentation
- Strong imaginal and symbolic cognition visible throughout

Brain and Nervous System Systems Potentially Engaged

- Autonomic nervous system
- Temporal-parietal junction
- Default mode network
- Salience network
- Limbic/emotional systems
- Interoceptive systems
- Autobiographical memory systems
- Symbolic association networks

Interpretive Frameworks

- Trauma and dissociation frameworks
- Neuropsychological frameworks
- Consciousness studies
- Transpersonal psychology
- Narrative identity theory
- Post-traumatic growth theory
- Indigenous relational and ecological cosmologies

Indigenous / Ecological Resonances

- Interconnectedness
- Relational ontology
- Land/body integration
- Spirit-presence and ecological intelligence
- Healing through alignment and reciprocity
- Resonances with Hawaiian, Māori, animistic, and relational cosmologies

Narrative and Meaning-Making

- Memoir writing functions as integration and continuity restoration
- Creative process used for identity reconstruction and witness process
- Symbolic storytelling repeatedly transforms suffering into meaning and service

Key Reflection

- The material resists single-cause interpretation
- Experiences cannot responsibly be reduced to only pathology, only spirituality, or only neuroscience
- The memoir repeatedly demonstrates simultaneous self-reflection, skepticism, symbolic intelligence, and existential inquiry